

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 ACDA-07
(ISO) W

-----051278 230423Z /64

R 221644Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2289
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3429

PARIS FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PBOR PORG UN MO US AG XI
SUBJECT: WALDHEIM INITIATIVE REGARDING SAHARA PROBLEM

REF: STATE 141679 (NOTAL)

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL AND IN ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI, CHARGE INFORMED MFA SECRETARY GENERAL ABDELHAKIM EL IRAQUI JUNE 22 OF ALGERIAN APPROACH TO WALDHEIM IN MAPUTO. CHARGE STRESSED THAT WE WERE ONLY CARRYING OUT WALDHEIM'S REQUEST TO SECRETARY THAT THIS INFORMATION BE PASSED TO KING HASSAN AND THAT U.S. MAINTAINING ITS "HANDS-OFF" POSITION.

2. IRAQUI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S. "HANDS-OFF" POSITION. HE COMMENTED THAT ALGERIAN APPROACH TO WALDEHIM WAS OBVIOUSLY PART OF CURRENT INTENSIVE ALGERIAN MANEUVERING.
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ALGERIA WAS ANXIOUS TO MAKE IT APPEAR AS THOUGH WALDHEIM AND UN WERE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN SAHARA ISSUE. IN FACT, HOWEVER, LAST YEAR'S UNGA HAD DECIDED TO DIVEST ITSELF OF THIS ISSUE AND TO DEFER TO OAU SPECIAL SUMMIT ON SAHARA. ALGERIANS WERE NOW TRYING TO CONFUSE THIS CLEAR DECISION.

3. OAU SPECIAL SUMMIT, IRAQUI CONTINUED, UNLIKELY TO BE HELD.

THREE INVITATIONS HAD BEEN ISSUED BY OAU SECRETARIAT, BUT NO MORE THAN SEVEN ACCEPTANCES HAD BEEN RECEIVED FOR ANY ONE INVITATION, WHEREAS TWO-THIRDS OF MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED. BASIC REASONS FOR SCARCITY OF ACCEPTANCES WOULD REMAIN: SOME STATES DID NOT WISH TO TAKE SIDES, SOME FELT SAHARA PROBLEM WAS EXTREMELY COMPLEX AND THAT OAU WOULD BE UNABLE TO FIND A SOLUTION, AND OTHERS WERE UNWILLING TO ACCEPT ADDIS ABABA OR OTHER SUGGESTED VENUES.

4. MOROCCANS WERE NOT DUPES OF ALGERIAN MANEUVERS, IRAQI ASSERTED, BUT INSTEAD HAD A TRUE APPRECIATION OF ALGERIAN ATTITUDES AND MOTIVES. ALGERIA WAS CONTINUING ITS MILITARY AGGRESSION AGAINST MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA. THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED RHM/GIRM DEFENSE AGREEMENT (RABAT 3367 AND NOUAKCHOTT 1415) WAS DESIGNED TO SHOW MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN FIRMNESS. AN ATTACK AGAINST ONE ALLY WOULD BE CONSIDERED AN ATTACK AGAINST THE OTHER. ON DIPLOMATIC FRONT, KING HASSAN HAD BEEN WILLING TO ACCEPT ALL OFFERS OF GOOD OFFICES, ONLY TO MEET ALGERIAN REJECTION OF ALL PROPOSALS WHICH ENSUED. MOST RECENTLY, SAUDI ARABIAN SUGGESTIONS HAD BEEN STONEWALLED BY ALGERIANS.

5. COMMENT: IRAQI'S HIGHLY NEGATIVE REACTION TO ALGERIAN OVERTURES TO WALDHEIM REINFORCES ASSESSMENT CONTAINED REFTTEL THAT MOROCCAN RECEPTIVITY IS AT A LOW EBB.
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